

Sources of drinking water: both tap water and bottled water originate as "surface water" from rivers and lakes or as "ground water" from springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material. Water picks up wastes from both human and animal activities. Surface water is usually filtered and disinfected to remove bacteria, viruses, and protozoa. Ground water is usually filtered naturally.

Contaminants that may be present include:

Microbial contaminants such as bacteria, viruses, and protozoa are very small living creatures that may be natural and harmless, or harmful if originating from septic systems, agricultural livestock operations or wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants such as heavy metals, can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges.

Pesticides and herbicides may come from agriculture and residential uses.

Radioactive contaminants are naturally occurring.

Organic chemical contaminants are usually man-made (synthetic) and vaporize easily (volatile). Petroleum products and degreasers are examples of gas station and dry cleaner waste transported by storm water and sewers.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

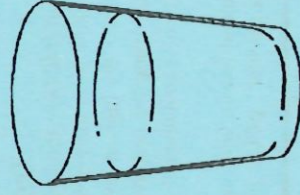


EPA ensures that tap water is safe to drink by writing regulations that limits both natural and man made contaminants. We follow both state and federal regulations. Interstate bottled water is regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.



Your drinking water comes from ground water. We have three wells approximately 500 feet deep.

# ELGIN WATER DEPARTMENT



## Drinking Water Report 2004

This is our annual report on your drinking water system. The most recently required sampling results have been gathered to inform customers about their tap water. With this information, we hope you will learn more about the water and will help protect the water for future use.

Received by 7-1-05



# Elgin Water Department's Drinking Water Report 2004 Sampling Results

## We provide quality drinking water that meets all federal and state requirements.

During recent years we have sampled for many different chemicals and have found very little contamination. Contamination is anything other than pure water. We sample total coliform bacteria as an indicator of microorganisms (bacteria, viruses and other small creatures) that should not be present. The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the past calendar year or in our most recent test as noted. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling THE CITY OF ELGIN office at (541) 437-2253 and ask for Joe Garlitz or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791). EPA's website: [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater).

### Terms and abbreviations

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Action Level (AL):** the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

na: not applicable nd: not detectable at testing limit ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter PCVL: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

| Regulated      | MCLG | MCL    | Our Water | Sample Date | Violation | Typical Source of Contaminant                                                 |
|----------------|------|--------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Copper (ppm)   | 1.3  | 1.3 AL | 0.029     | 11-30-04    | no        | Corrosive water & home plumbing                                               |
| Lead (ppb)     | 15   | 15     | 2         | 11-30-04    | no        | Corrosive water & home plumbing                                               |
| Fluoride (ppm) | 4    | 4      | 0.3       | 1-13-04     | no        | Naturally occurring                                                           |
| Barium (ppm)   | 2    | 2      | 0.041     | 5-19-03     | no        | Naturally occurring                                                           |
| Sodium (ppm)   | na   | na     | 22        | 1-13-04     | no        | Naturally occurring                                                           |
| Arsenic (ppb)  | na   | 50     | 0.9       | 11-29-04    | no        | Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from glass & electronic production wastes |

### VIOLATIONS:

We are required to supply the State with results from 2 Total Coliform samples a month. The State only received one during December.



*Mailed June 8, 2005*

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